

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract at page 14 with the following amended abstract:

A method and a system for ~~data-type-preserving~~ encryption of a data element in a relational database, wherein each data element ~~comprises~~ includes a string of at least one character. The method ~~comprises~~ includes the steps of: reading the type of a data element which is to be encrypted; and interpreting said the data type ~~in order~~ to form a restricting character set for each character of said the data element. ~~Then encryption using said encryption means for; and~~ encrypting each character of said the data element into an encrypted character ~~using said restricted character set to control said encryption means to only create encrypted characters included said restricting character set is performed~~ selected from the restricting character set.